

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:280

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the failure of agriculture sector in country has led to the dependence of the country on imports for its food security;
- (b) if so, whether the World Development Report-2008 has also suggested that the development of agro-sector of the country is necessary for alleviating poverty from the country;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken any decisions for providing easy credit facility, irrigation and post harvest management of crops to farmers;
- (d) whether discussions have been held with the States in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The highest ever foodgrain production of 216.13 million tonnes has been recorded during 2006-07 (Fourth Advance Estimates, 2006-07) which is 7.53 million tonnes higher than the foodgrains production of 2005-06. The World Development Report-2008 has specifically mentioned that in the long term the food price effect has largest influence on poverty reduction.

(c) to (e): The Government of India, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has initiated several measures for providing easy credit to farmers like doubling of credit flow in three years, simplification of procedure for documentation of agricultural loans and lowering the interest rates on crop loans to 7 percent. The assistance to the farmers is provided for adoption of micro irrigation like drip and sprinkler systems through various developmental schemes. Under National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States assistance is provided for creating post harvest infrastructure. The discussions with the State Governments to have the feed back about the implementation of these schemes are held on regular basis.